



***Paradeontacylix megalaspium* n. sp. (Digenea: Sanguinicolidae) from the carangid fish, *Megalaspis cordyla* of Bay of Bengal**

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Sanguinicolids are blood flukes infecting marine and freshwater fishes in many parts of the world. Smith (1997a, 1997b) furnished a list of sanguinicolids reported to that date, together with their hosts and geographic distribution. Subsequently, many new genera and species of sanguinicolids were reported. According to the recent review of Smith (2002), the family contains 19 genera.

Only one species of sanguinicolid, *Orchispirium heterovitellatum* Madhavi and Rao, 1970, has so far been recorded from marine fishes of Bay of Bengal (Madhavi & Rao 1970). We report another sanguinicolid identified as a new species belonging to the genus *Paradeontacylix* and collected from the carangid *Megalaspis cordyla* from the Visakhapatnam coast, Bay of Bengal.

Samples of *M. cordyla* collected from fish landing centers at Fishing Harbor, Visakhapatnam (Bay of Bengal) were brought to the laboratory. The gills were separated, placed in saline in a Petri dish, teased thoroughly, and the contents examined under a binocular microscope for the presence of the parasites. Flukes found were fixed directly in AFA (Alcohol, formalin, acetic acid) without applying pressure. A few specimens were studied alive to note details of body spination and the terminal genitalia. Fixed flukes were washed thoroughly, stained in alum carmine, dehydrated in ethanol series, cleared in creosote, and mounted on slides in Canada balsam. Figures were drawn with the aid of a camera lucida and all measurements are given in micrometers.

Fork length of the host fishes examined was recorded and definitions for the terms prevalence and mean intensity of infection were from Bush *et al.* (1997).

Sanguinicolidae von Graff, 1907

***Paradeontacylix* McIntosh, 1934**

***Paradeontacylix megalaspium* n. sp. (Figs 1-4)**

Type-host: *Megalaspis cordyla* (Linnaeus) (Carangidae), torpedo scad.

Type-locality: Visakhapatnam coast, Bay of Bengal (17°44'N, 83°23'E).

Site: Gill blood vessels.

Prevalence of infection: A total of 110 *M. cordyla* ranging in fork length from 118–280 mm were examined during March, 2006–January, 2007. Infection with the blood fluke was rare and confined to the months March–May. Only 8 fish ranging in fork length from 192–280 mm showed the infection, each infected fish carried 1–4 flukes. Altogether 18 flukes were collected. The prevalence of infection was 1.6% and the intensity was 2.2.

Material deposited: Holotype- Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, India No W 8878 Paratype- NHM, London No. 2007.5.16.1

Etymology: The species is named after the generic name of the host, *Megalaspis*.

Description: Based on 10 specimens. Body long, slender, worm-like, with parallel sides, pointed anterior and posterior ends, protruding anteriorly as a knob, 1,920–3,520 long 96–192 wide, approximately 20 times longer than wide (Fig.1). Tegument thin, transparent, armed with spines arranged in regular rows along ventrolateral margins, number of